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http://nationsreportcard.gov

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http://nationsreportcard.gov

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http://nationsreportcard.gov/educators.asp

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#### Volume 17. Issue 2-12

# VINTER 2013 VEASURE Un

Assessment news for high school teachers

## A New Generation of **Science Assessment**

Science education is not just about learning facts in a classroom—it's about doing activities where students put their understanding of science principles into action. That's why two unique types of activity-based tasks were administered as part of the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science assessment. In addition to the paper-and-pencil questions, fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-graders also completed hands-on and interactive computer tasks. These tasks help us understand not only what students know, but how well they are able to reason through complex problems and apply science to real-life situations. While performing the interactive computer and hands-on tasks, students manipulate objects and perform actual experiments, offering us richer data on how students respond to scientific challenges.

Here's what we learned about student performance across the tasks on the NAEP interactive website: http://nationsreportcard.gov/ science\_2009/.



## **Explore the Tasks**

Students were successful on parts of investigations that involved limited sets of data and making straightforward **observations** of that data.

Students were **challenged** by parts of investigations that contained more variables to manipulate or involved strategic decision making to collect appropriate data.

The percentage of students who could select correct conclusions from an investigation was higher than for those students who could select correct conclusions and also explain

The responses of students with disabilities and English language learners on NAEP represent those of hundreds of other similar students. Without them, information about how to best meet the educational needs of these students would be lost. NAEP incorporates inclusive policies and practices into every aspect of the assessment, including selection of students, participation in the assessment administration, and valid and effective accommodations. Such best practices are essential to ensuring an inclusive assessment that yields meaningful NAEP results for all students with disabilities and English language learners. By representing their peers across the nation on NAEP, students with disabilities and English language learners help to ensure that NAEP results can be used to inform efforts to improve educational programs.

Many students with disabilities and English language learners are able to participate in the assessment administration alongside their peers. Participating in NAEP allows students with disabilities and English language learners to experience a large-scale assessment



administration without high-stakes consequences. Since NAEP does not produce scores for individual students or results for schools, participation in NAEP is not tied to grades or evaluations of students, teachers, or schools.

Students with disabilities and English language learners are provided with testing accommodations so that they can demonstrate their content knowledge and skills on NAEP. NAEP offers a comprehensive set of accommodations to increase access to testing for students with disabilities and English language learners. To ensure that appropriate accommodations are determined for individual students, NAEP relies on school staff to make inclusion and accommodations decisions for those students selected for the assessment.

Percentage of twelfth-grade public and nonpublic school students with disabilities (SD) and/or English language learners (ELL) identified, excluded, and assessed in NAEP reading, as a percentage of all students, by SD/ELL category: Various years, 1992-2009

		0,			, ,	, , , , ,	
	Accommodations not permitted			Accommodations permitted			
SD/ELL category	1992	1994	1998	1998	2002	2005	2009
SD and/or ELL							
Identified	7	9	7	7	12	14	13
Excluded	5	5	3	2	4	4	4
Assessed	2	5	4	5	8	10	9
Without accommodations	2	5	4	4	6	5	4
With accommodations	†	†	†	1	2	4	6
SD							
Identified	5	7	6	6	9	10	10
Excluded	4	4	3	2	3	3	3
Assessed	1	3	3	4	6	7	7
Without accommodations	1	3	3	3	4	3	2
With accommodations	†	†	†	1	2	4	5
ELL							
Identified	2	2	2	2	3	4	3
Excluded	1	1	#	#	1	1	1
Assessed	1	1	2	2	3	3	2
Without accommodations	1	1	2	2	2	3	2
With accommodations	†	†	†	#	#	1	1

<sup>†</sup> Not applicable. Accommodations were not permitted in this assessment year

## **NAEP 2011 Writing Results**

The 2011 NAEP computer-based writing assessment is the first large-scale national assessment to measure students' writing using commonly available wordprocessing tools. A national sample of 28,100 twelfthgraders responded to writing prompts designed to measure their ability to write for specified purposes (to persuade, to explain, or to convey experience) and audiences. A proficiency scale ranging from 0-300 with a mean of 150 was developed to report results for the new

- Female students scored 14 points higher on average than male students at grade 12.
- · Seventy-nine percent of twelfth-graders performed at or above the Basic level in writing in 2011.
- Twenty-seven percent of students at grade 12 performed at or above the Proficient level in writing.
- Three percent of twelfth-graders in 2011 performed at the Advanced level.
- At grade 12, average writing scores were not significantly different for White students, Asian students, and students of two or more races.
- · At grade 12, scores were higher for White students, Asian students, and students of two or more races than for Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students.

http://nces.gov/nationsreportcard/writing/cba.asp

## The NAEP Writing **Achievement Levels**

Specific definitions of the Basic, Proficient, and Advanced achievement levels for grade 12 are presented in the table that follows.

Level	Definition
Basic	Twelfth-grade students writing at the Basic level should be able to respond effectively to the tasks and accomplish their communicative purposes. Their texts should be coherent and well structured.
Proficient	Twelfth-grade students writing at the Proficient level should address the tasks effectively and fully accomplish their communicative purposes. Their texts should be coherent and well structured with respect to these purposes, and they should include well-crafted and effective connections and transitions.
Advanced	Twelfth-grade students writing at the Advanced level should be able to address the tasks strategically, fully accomplish their communicative purposes, and demonstrate a skillful and creative approach to constructing and delivering their messages. Their texts should be coherent and well structured; they should include skillfully constructed and effective connections and transitions; and they should be rhetorically powerful.

**Grade 12 -** http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ writing/achieve.asp#grade12

# What Is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of NAEP, the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects.

By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

NOTE: Students identified as both SD and ELL were counted only once under the combined SD and/or ELL category, but were counted separately under the SD and ELL categories. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), various years, 1992–2009 Reading Assessments